

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a pressurized water reactor fuel assembly which has a top nozzle and guide thimbles, comprising:  
supporting a tool configured to handle the fuel assembly;  
positioning the tool over a top of the fuel assembly;  
lowering the tool onto the top of the fuel assembly such that at least two alignment pins engage a the top nozzle of the fuel assembly;  
actuating a shaft to lower lock fingers into the guide thimbles of the fuel assembly;  
positioning the lock fingers to a position below divots in the guide thimble in the fuel assembly to be engaged;  
engaging the lock fingers finger tabs into the divots to an extended position;  
and  
lifting the fuel assembly and the tool, wherein structural load of the lifted fuel assembly passes ~~through~~ from the divots to the tool.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
disengaging the tool from the fuel assembly.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaft is rotated to lower the lock fingers into the guide thimbles.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the actuating of the shaft to lower the lock fingers is performed by a mandrel shaft which allows a spring tension to be applied to the lock fingers.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)